

HONORING HOWARD A. CHRISTIANSON

(Mr. LARSEN of Washington asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate Howard A. Christianson, a resident of Washington's Second Congressional District, whose life has been defined by his service to his country, his family and his community. I congratulate Mr. Christianson on receiving the first-ever Stillaguamish Senior Center Lifetime Achievement Award.

My hometown of Arlington, Washington, has benefited from 25 years of Mr. Christianson's vision and guidance as a city councilman, mayor and city administrator. His legacy of leadership extends beyond his public service to civic service as well.

He has been active in the Kiwanis Club, American Legion, VFW and the Shriners, and his years of work with the Masonic Lodge have inspired leaders to name the lodge's new citizen of the year award the Howard A. Christianson Outstanding Citizenship Award.

Madam Speaker, we should all be so fortunate to have community members back home in our districts who so visibly represent the meaning of service and leadership. At a time when many Americans are feeling disengaged from their communities and their leaders, Howard Christianson stands out as a shining example of why we must continue to serve and to lead for the sake of our country and for our communities.

□ 1030

HONORING SPEAKER HASTERT

(Mrs. BIGGERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BIGGERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to add my voice to the many here this morning in support of our Speaker and my neighbor from Illinois, DENNIS HASTERT.

In so doing, I would ask three questions: Is the price of leadership defamation of character? Is the punishment for defending this body and its Members rumor, innuendo and false leaks? Is the cost of speaking the truth and upholding the Constitution greater than the need for flashy headlines?

The answer to all three must be no. Speaker HASTERT is one of the finest men I have ever known. His integrity is unquestioned. Let's stop the witch hunt, let's shake the gotcha mentality, and let's put an end to the unjust attacks on those who bear the heavy responsibility of leadership.

DO-NOTHING CONGRESS REFUSES TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT THE HIGH COST OF GAS

(Mr. CARNAHAN asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARNAHAN. Madam Speaker, with Memorial Day approaching, it would be nice if the Republican-controlled House had actually done something about gas prices that continue to hover about \$3 a gallon.

Over the past 5 years, we have seen gas prices double what they were when President Bush took office. American families are now spending about \$1,500 more a year on transportation than they did 5 years ago. Gas prices are taking a big bite out of American family budgets.

And yet for 5 years, Washington Republicans have chosen to pad the pockets of Big Oil rather than provide real relief to consumers or sufficient resources for alternative energy. Last year they signed an energy bill into law that was nothing more than a \$20 billion gift to Big Oil.

It is no wonder that Big Oil continues to reap record profits, including nearly \$30 billion for the six largest oil companies in the first quarter of this year alone. House Republicans are unwilling to provide real relief to American consumers because of their cozy relationship with Big Oil.

Despite what Republicans claim this week, drilling in ANWR is not a solution to our energy crisis.

HONORING SPEAKER HASTERT

(Mr. WELLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WELLER. Madam Speaker, I come to the floor to congratulate the Speaker of the House. I have known DENNY HASTERT since the late 1970s. I remember DENNY HASTERT as a high school wrestling coach, history teacher. The Yorkville Foxes would come down to our high school and pretty much beat us every year under the leadership of Coach HASTERT.

When I met DENNY HASTERT, he was a public school teacher interested in public service, thinking about running for State legislature, volunteering to campaign. Today he is Speaker of the House. One thing I have always known about DENNY HASTERT; he is respected as a listener. He is a solid leader, a man of integrity.

But I want to congratulate the Speaker, because this coming week, DENNY HASTERT will become the longest-serving Republican Speaker of the House of Representatives in the history of the United States Congress.

It is my understanding that he will also be the third-longest Speaker in the history of the United States. As a Member of the Illinois Delegation I extend my warm congratulations to DENNY HASTERT, who has been a great Speaker of the House, a man of tremendous integrity. I salute him for his leadership to the House of Representatives and our Nation.

STUDENT SAVINGS ACT OF 2006

(Mr. PASCRELL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, in 1999, when President Bush was running for office, he made a pledge to veto any tax increase. Well, last week, he did what he said he would never do when he signed into law a tax increase for our Nation's young people.

This Congress passed and the President signed a bill that will triple tax rates for the teenagers with college savings funds. Under the new law, teenagers between the ages of 14 and 17 with investment income who had their long-term capital gains and dividends taxed at 5 percent, will now be taxed at 15.

Interest that had been taxed at 10 percent will now be taxed at as much as 35 percent. So much for savings. So much for education. So much for hypocrisy. The bill passed last week and ironically is called the Tax Increase Prevention Act.

Yet it increased taxes on students. And we have been insisting on tax cuts of billions of dollars to folks who do not need it. It is because of this outrageous tax increase that I have introduced the Student Savings Act of 2006, H.R. 5473. My legislation will be revenue neutral by effectively rescinding those tax cuts that go to those who make \$1 million or more.

We should be giving our students financial incentives and not giving them tax increases.

HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS PROCESS

(Mr. KINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KINGSTON. Madam Speaker, I wanted to call attention that the House Appropriations Committee, working on a bipartisan basis, is ahead of schedule for this year. And although that is what we should be doing, it does seem that sometimes in Washington things break down, and there is no progress that is being made.

Unfortunately, a lot of that is happening in the other body. And then the House doesn't get credit for it. We have had some very good debate on the appropriations bills. We will have them under budget and on time. We are having a lot of push-back from some of our Members about, well, you need to cut this item out of it because there is pork here; there is pork there.

And I can say this, that in a \$2-trillion-plus budget, you can always find lots to criticize about it. I think we should always be on the lookout for more things to cut. But just to take an example, the agriculture bill, we cut 35 different programs out of it, we reduced spending, and we did it on a bipartisan basis.

So often as Members get up to grandstand over one or two particular

things, they totally forget the bigger picture that the committee has done a lot of work already. I want to just say to the House, Democrats and Republicans, I think we are moving in the right direction on appropriations bills. We are going to continue to do so and work together on it.

FBI RAID ON CAPITOL HILL

(Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I disagree with the bipartisan House leadership criticism of the FBI's search of a Member's office. I know nothing specifically about the case, except that the uncontroverted public evidence did seem to justify the issuance of a warrant.

What we now have is a Congressional leadership, the Republican part of which has said it is okay for law enforcement to engage in warrantless searches of the average citizen, now objecting when a search, pursuant to a validly issued warrant, is conducted of a Member of Congress.

I understand that the speech and debate clause is in the Constitution. It is there because Queen Elizabeth I and King James I were disrespectful of Parliament. It ought to be, in my judgment, construed narrowly. It should not be in any way interpreted as meaning that we as Members of Congress have legal protections superior to those of the average citizen.

So I think it was a grave error to have criticized the FBI. I think what they did, they ought to be able to do in every case where they can get a warrant from a judge. I think, in particular, for the leadership of this House, which has stood idly by while this administration has ignored the rights of citizens, to then say we have special rights as Members of Congress is wholly inappropriate.

HONORING SPEAKER HASTERT

(Mr. MANZULLO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MANZULLO. Madam Speaker, I am proud to come down to the floor this morning to show my strong support for my friend and our Speaker, DENNY HASTERT. This is a man of intense integrity, a man of great character, a man who has worked tirelessly to bring honor and as much unity as possible to this institution.

When our former Speaker and successors resigned, we went to DENNY to be our Speaker because he was the right man for the job. He has never let us down. He set the standard for integrity. I would encourage ABC, who thinks it knows truth in its own definition and probably does, I would encourage them to tell the truth and to apologize to the American people for their assault upon the Speaker of the House.

A GOOD OFFENSE IS THE BEST DEFENSE

(Mr. McDERMOTT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, to follow on the words of Mr. FRANK from Massachusetts, I would like to say that we all know that a good offense is the best defense. That is true in any sport, whether it is wrestling or football or basketball.

But I would commend the Speaker and my colleagues to the words of Christ. In Matthew 7:3, He says, "Why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye," the press, the FBI, whoever. "Hypocrite, first cast out the beam in thine own eye and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote in thy brother's eye".

Madam Speaker, we have a very unbalanced set of perceptions in this House. If it goes favorable toward us, we think it is wonderful, and we proclaim it.

But if it happens to be unpleasant to us, suddenly, we cannot seem to find enough words to castigate it. This is a House in which the people expect us to be just and even-handed. That is what they expect from us. That is what they should get.

UDALL-SCHWARZ RESOLUTION ON IRAQ

(Mr. UDALL of Colorado asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today with my colleague and friend, Representative JOE SCHWARZ of Michigan, I will introduce a bipartisan resolution that can be the basis for consensus about future military involvement in Iraq.

Our resolution recognizes progress in Iraq, including the establishment of a national unity government last week. But it also recognizes the need for more progress. In particular, it urges the Bush Administration to tell the new Iraqi government that they must seize this opportunity to complete the formation of their new government and agree to modifications in their own constitution.

We need to let the Iraqi government know this is no time for complacency. Iraqi leaders must seize this opportunity to complete the political process which could build trust and legitimacy in the new government and reduce insurgent-led violence and sectarian strife.

Only the Iraqis can unify their country and achieve a lasting peace. Our resolution makes it clear to both the people of Iraq and the American people, the presence of U.S. military forces is linked to Iraqi political achievements and the deadlines the Iraqis have set for themselves in their constitution need to be met.

I urge the support of my colleagues on this important bipartisan resolution.

THE SAFER NET ACT, H.R. 4982

(Ms. BEAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. BEAN. Madam Speaker, sadly we have all become familiar with the media reports of online child predators trolling for kids on the Internet networking sites like MySpace, unsuspecting Americans having their lives hijacked by online identity thieves and scams which swindle millions of Americans of their hard-earned money.

While our families want to access the tremendous resources available on the Internet, they now know that there are significant dangers lurking there. Unfortunately, most Americans do not know where to turn to for help. In fact, a Google search on Internet safety returns over 5 million hits.

To assist our families in their efforts to protect themselves, I have introduced H.R. 4982, The SAFER Net Act. This bipartisan effort would do three things: First, it would streamline existing Federal resources to coordinate and promote best practices for safe surfing.

Second, the SAFER Net Act would launch a national public awareness campaign to alert Americans to online threats and how they can protect their loved ones. Finally, this legislation would authorize Federal grants to support efforts that promote Internet safety, conducted by our schools, businesses, local law enforcement agencies and nonprofit organizations.

Madam Speaker, we have the resources in place. We just need to use them better. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4982.

WAGES IN AMERICA

(Mrs. MALONEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, the administration continues to mislead the American people about the economy. They boast about how fast wages are growing while ignoring the devastating impact on the real purchasing power of those wages, from higher gasoline prices and other increases in the cost of living.

Treasury Secretary Snow was befuddled at a hearing before the Financial Services Committee when the ranking member, BARNEY FRANK, asked him whether the data he cited on wages had taken inflation into account. It turns out, they had not, and his statistics were meaningless.

The fact is real wages have stagnated for the last 3 years, and this administration's policies are not working to benefit ordinary working Americans.

REAL ACTION NEEDED

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)